

What's the score? Take this test and find out

By Roger Boye

Even the novice should score at least four correct on this coin collector quiz. As usual, answers are at the end — and no fair peeking.

1. Who produced the first coin depicting Christ? (A) The Roman Emperor Maximinus I in the year 260, (B) the Byzantium Emperor Justinian II in 695, (C) Pope Innocent IV in 1250, or (D) Napoleon of France in 1805.

2. True or false: The United States government once issued a special commemorative half-dollar honoring Illinois.

3. To a coin collector, what's a "field"? (A) The flat area on a coin that has no design, (B) the spread between a coin dealer's buy and sell prices, (C) a beautifully designed piece of paper

money, or (D) a place to hold coin shows.

4. Within the United States seal on the back-side of a \$1 bill are the Latin words "*annuit coeptis*" and "*novus ordo seclorum*." What do they mean?

5. On the tails side of the Washington quarter, the eagle is perched on a bundle of arrows. What's the significance?

6. True or false: Sterling silver is the purest silver available for coinage.

ANSWERS:

1. B. In the year 313, Emperor Constantine made Christianity legal in the Roman (or Byzantine) Empire.

2. True. Coining presses produced the half-dollar in 1918 to commemorate the Illinois centennial. The state seal adorns one side and Abraham Lincoln the other. (Uncirculated specimens sell for more than \$75 today.)

3. A.

4. "He (God) has favored our undertakings" and "A new order of the ages."

5. It's supposed to signify that strength is gained through unity.

6. False. Sterling is 92.5 per cent silver, 7.5 per cent copper. Machines can make coins in 99.9 per cent silver.